GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1185
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2002
REFORMS IN TECHNICAL EDUCATION
SURESH CHANDEL

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need for comprehensive reforms in the area of technical education in the country; (b) if so, whether Government have formulated any draft plan for the above reforms; and (c) if so, the details of the aforesaid plan alongwith the decision taken by the Government to get assistance from the private sector to implement the plan?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a) to (c) : Reforms in technical education in the country is a continuous process and this is achieved through the implementation of the National Policy on Education(NPE)and the Programme of Action (PoA). It includes coordinated and planned development of technical education as embodied in the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) Act, 1987. For the development of technical education, AICTE operates severalschemes such as Modernisation and Removal of Obsolescence, Thrust Area Programme in Technical Education, Research and Development Programme, Entrepreneurship and Management Development Programme, Early Faculty Induction Programme, Quality ImprovementProgramme, Accreditation, of courses etc. Apart from the initiatives on the part of the AICTE,recent initiatives taken to strengthen the technical education system include strengthening and consolidation of infrastrcutural facilities in Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs),Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and other similar institutions, development of technologies in emerging areas and their transfer to user agencies through technology development missions; transfer of techno- economic advances in technical education and appropriate technologies to rural people through expansion of Community Polytechnics; Scheme for upgrading existing polytechnics to integrate the physically disabled in the main stream of technical and vocational education; modernization of institutions and development of R&D base; Technician Education Project; modernization of libraries and switch over to electronic libraries with interconnectivity etc; Regional Engineering Colleges are being upgraded to National Institutes of Technology (NITs). With a view to providing necessary direction to the technical education system in the country towards promotion of Postgraduate Education and Research in Engineering and Technology, in December 2001, the Ministry has announced a Policy Framework which provides for increasing the duration of M.Tech. Programmes from 18 to 24 months; raising the scholarship amount etc. Private Sector is involved substantially in running of technical institutes, some of which are of very good quality, under the overall supervision of AICTE.